

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01829 140540Z

13-12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-13 /072 W

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O 140512Z SEP 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6369

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1829

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH SU

SUBJECT: PEKING REJECTS CONDOLENCE MESSAGES SIGNED BY SOVIET AND
EAST EUROPEAN CENTRAL COMMITTEES

1. FRIENDLY JOURNALIST BASED IN PEKING HAS ADVISED US THAT THE CHINESE HAVE REJECTED ALL MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE SIGNED BY THE RESPECTIVE CENTRAL COMMITTEES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EAST EUROPEAN PARTIES (EXCEPTING RUMANIA AND ALBANIA, OF COURSE). JUDGING THESE MESSAGES TO BE A PROVOCATION -- CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGES WERE NOT SENT FOR THE CHOU EN-LAI OR CHU TEH FUNERALS -- THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE RETURNED THEM ALL TO THEIR SENDERS.

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2. SOME EAST EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED TO JOURNALIST

THAT MESSAGES WERE IN FACT A DELIBERATE TRIAL BALLOON DESIGNED TO PROBE FOR EVIDENCE OF ANY PRO-SOVIET SYMPATHIES OR CONCILIATORY SENTIMENT IN POST-MAO LEADERSHIP. DECISION TO PUBLISH MESSAGES WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN AS SUCH EVIDENCE.

3. AS OF SEPTEMBER 14 THE ONLY MESSAGE FROM SOVIET UNION OR EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY (EXCEPT RUMANIA AND ALBANIA) PUBLISHED WAS SIGNED BY HUNGARIAN PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL AND COUNCIL OF MINISTER A GOVERNMENT ORGAN.

4. THIS SITUATION MAY ALSO EXPLAIN IN PART THE CHINESE DECISION TO INVITE SOVIETS AND THEIR EAST BLOC ALLIES TO PAY LAST RESPECTS TO MAO AT 1800 HOURS SEPTEMBER 13, BEHIND ALL OTHER MISSIONS INCLUDING USLO (SEE SEPTTEL) AND IN SAME GROUP WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEATHS, CONDOLENCE MESSAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01829
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760345-1138
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760962/aaaacbey.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEKING REJECTS CONDOLENCE MESSAGES SIGNED BY SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN CONTRAL COMMITTEES
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, XH, (MAO TSE-TUNG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006